



United States Air Force Museum

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MUSEUM STORY IDEAS FOR MEDIA

Star Wars pod racer exhibit draws visitors: The newest exhibit at the museum features a life-size detailed replica of Anakin Skywalker's Pod racer from Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace. The exhibit, called Science Fiction to Science Fact, comes complete with a bundle of special effects, lighting, videos and interactive displays. Donated by Nintendo of America, Inc.*, the exhibit is on loan from the Museum of Flight* in Seattle, Wash., and will remain on display until June 2002.

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B-2 stealth bomber undergoing restoration: Watch the museum's Restoration Division restore a massive B-2 stealth bomber in preparation for an anticipated 2003 rollout. The museum's B-2 will be the first permanent public exhibit anywhere of an aircraft that is changing war-fighting doctrine and has gained notoriety thanks to its performance in Operation Allied Force over Kosovo and in Operation Enduring Freedom over Afghanistan

Nissen Hut takes visitors back to World War II era: See the museum's recently opened Nissen Hut, a simple brick and tin structure used as a functional home, recreation spot and office area for soldiers and airmen during World War II. Customized mannequins, artifacts and photographs create a mesmerizing scene for visitors by depicting personnel of the Eighth Air Force's 56th Fighter Group preparing a pre-mission briefing. Adding to the sensory appeal, era music originates from a phonograph and mannequins play cards and checkers in an authentic bar setting.

Major expansion vision taking shape: Already the world's largest and oldest military aviation museum, the U.S. Air Force Museum is growing even larger. Construction continues to progress on a 200,000-square-foot building scheduled to open in 2003, coinciding with a variety of events to commemorate the Centennial of Flight celebration. When the building opens, the museum will bring more aircraft under roof and open a Cold War Gallery. With the combination of the new building and major special events in 2003, the museum aims to raise annual attendance from 1.2 million visitors to nearly 2 million.

Contemporary exhibit design takes hold: A contemporary approach to exhibit design is proliferating throughout the museum, bringing history to life. This approach involves incorporating sensory effects such as mannequins, artifacts, theatrical lighting and, in some cases, sound effects to create a habitat around an aircraft that humanizes and dramatizes the story depicted, drawing visitors into an authentic historical setting. Speak with museum exhibits specialists and go behind the scenes to see how an exhibit takes shape from concept through construction to public opening.

